



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - October 21, 2002

- ***In the West***, mild, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork, but the entire region continues to suffer through various effects of long-term drought, including limited irrigation reserves and a lack of soil moisture for ***Northwestern*** winter wheat establishment.
- ***On the Plains***, weekend showers across ***Oklahoma*** and ***Texas*** maintained generally adequate levels of soil moisture for pastures and winter grains. Farther north, cool weather and dry soils are limiting winter wheat development, particularly on the ***central and northern High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, rain and snow showers are confined to the ***upper Midwest***, where a cool autumn has slowed evaporation rates and soggy fields have consistently hampered corn and soybean harvests. Meanwhile, across the ***southern and eastern Corn Belt***, cool weather favors fieldwork but continues to slow winter wheat growth.
- ***In the South***, weekend showers totaled less than one inch in the ***Delta***, following several days of dry weather that permitted a limited return to frequently delayed rice, soybean, and cotton harvests. Along the ***Atlantic Coast***, showers are slowing fieldwork but further easing long-term precipitation deficits.

Outlook: Rain and snow showers will accompany a series of weak disturbances across the ***northern Rockies, northern Plains, and upper Midwest***, and scattered showers will persist along an old frontal boundary in the ***Southeast and Gulf Coast States***. By mid-week, showers will push southward into the ***central Rockies*** and ***central Plains*** as cold high pressure builds south out of Canada. Showers and thunderstorms will develop in the ***southern Plains***. Mostly dry weather will prevail in the ***Pacific Coast and Mid-Atlantic States***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 26-30 calls for above-normal precipitation across the ***Pacific Northwest, Delta, and Atlantic Coast States***, while drier than-normal conditions persist in the ***Desert Southwest***. Temperatures are expected to remain below normal across much of the ***contiguous U.S.***, with the largest departures from normal temperatures occurring over the ***central and northern Plains and Great Lakes***.

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